

An Act

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 1436

By: Stanislawski of the Senate

and

Miller of the House

An Act relating to teacher certification; amending Section 1, Chapter 336, O.S.L. 2013, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 120, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 6-122.7), which relates to certification in the area of mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities; allowing the State Board of Education to issue a provisional certificate in the area of comprehensive special education; amending Section 2, Chapter 336, O.S.L. 2013, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 120, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 6-122.8), which relates to the issuance of certain standard certificates in the area of mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities; allowing the State Board of Education to issue a standard certificate in the area of comprehensive special education; amending Section 3, Chapter 120, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 6-122.9), which relates to alternative certification in the areas of mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities; allowing the State Board of Education to issue an alternative certificate in the area of comprehensive special education; providing for the State Board of Education to issue a certain provisional certificate in the area of severe-profound disabilities; establishing criteria; providing for the issuance of a standard certificate in the area of severe-profound disabilities; establishing criteria; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Teacher certification

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 336, O.S.L. 2013, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 120, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 6-122.7), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.7. A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, the State Board of Education shall issue a one-year provisional certificate to teach in the area of mild-moderate ~~or~~ disabilities, severe-profound disabilities or comprehensive special education to any qualified candidate who has:

1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited institution of higher education;

2. Been recommended for a certificate by a school district board of education or an accredited institution of higher education;

3. Satisfactorily completed a one-hundred-fifty-clock-hour special education program prescribed by the Board; and

4. On file with the Board a national criminal history record check as required pursuant to Section 5-142 of this title. The individual applying for a provisional certificate shall be responsible for the cost of the national criminal history record check.

B. The one-year provisional certificate issued pursuant to this section may be renewed for two (2) additional periods of one-year each upon proof from an accredited institution of higher education that the individual has successfully completed at least six (6) credit hours of prescribed coursework during the previous year in a nontraditional route to certification program in either mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities or toward a master's degree in special education.

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of Education shall issue a standard certificate in the area of mild-moderate ~~or~~ disabilities, severe-profound disabilities or comprehensive special education to any individual who has:

1. Been issued one or more provisional certificates pursuant to this section;

2. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework of a nontraditional route to certification program in either mild-moderate or severe-profound disabilities or a master's degree in special education from an accredited institution of higher education within three (3) years of issuance of the original provisional certificate and any examinations required to obtain a standard certificate in mild-moderate ~~or~~ disabilities, severe-profound disabilities or comprehensive special education;

3. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area competency examination as required pursuant to Section 6-187 of this title; and

4. Submitted an application and payment of the required certification fee.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual who holds a current provisional certificate pursuant to subsection A or B of this section or a current standard certificate pursuant to subsection C of this section may satisfy the highly qualified teacher requirement for early childhood education or elementary education by successful completion of the early childhood education or elementary education examinations.

E. To obtain standard certification in early childhood education or elementary education, an individual shall complete an appropriate teacher education program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

F. Nothing in this section shall change the requirements an individual is required to satisfy to be considered highly qualified in a secondary core academic area.

G. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 2, Chapter 336, O.S.L. 2013, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 120, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 6-122.8), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.8. A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of Education shall issue a standard certificate in the area of mild-moderate ~~or~~ disabilities, severe-profound disabilities or comprehensive special education to any individual who has:

1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited institution of higher education;

2. Successfully completed the prescribed coursework that may be required for a master's degree in special education from an accredited institution of higher education and any examinations required to obtain a standard certificate in mild-moderate ~~or~~ disabilities, severe-profound disabilities or comprehensive special education;

3. Successfully completed the appropriate subject area competency examination as required pursuant to Section 6-187 of this title;

4. On file with the State Board of Education a national criminal history record check as required pursuant to Section 5-142 of this title; and

5. Submitted an application and payment of the required certification fee.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual who holds a current standard certificate pursuant to subsection A of this section can satisfy the highly qualified teacher requirement for early childhood education or elementary education by successful completion of the early childhood education or elementary education examinations.

C. To obtain standard certification in early childhood education or elementary education, the individual shall complete an appropriate teacher education program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY Section 3, Chapter 120, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2019, Section 6-122.9), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122.9. A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of Education shall issue a standard certificate in the area of mild-moderate ~~or~~ disabilities, severe-profound disabilities or comprehensive special education to any individual certified via an alternative certification route in early childhood education or elementary education who has:

1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited institution of higher education;

2. Successfully completed the mild-moderate ~~or~~ disabilities, severe-profound disabilities or comprehensive special education competency examinations; and

3. Submitted an application and payment of the required certification fee.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law and with the exception of paraprofessionals under the Career Development areas, the State Board of Education shall issue a standard certificate in the area of mild-moderate ~~or~~ disabilities, severe-profound disabilities or comprehensive special education to any individual certified via an alternative certification route in a core academic area, which includes Mathematics, Science, English, Language Arts, History, Foreign Language, Music, Art, Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education, who has:

1. Earned a bachelor's level college degree from an accredited institution of higher education;

2. Successfully completed the mild-moderate ~~or~~ disabilities, severe-profound disabilities or comprehensive special education competency examinations; and

3. Submitted an application and payment of the required certification fee.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-122.10 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Board of Education shall issue a two-year provisional certificate in the area of severe-profound disabilities to any individual who has:

1. Obtained a standard certificate in the area of mild-moderate disabilities;

2. Been recommended for a certificate in the area of severe-profound disabilities by a school district board of education; and

3. Submitted an application and payment of the required certification fee.

B. An individual who completes the requirements of subsection A of this section may be eligible to receive a standard certificate in the area of severe-profound disabilities upon completion of:

1. A micro-credentialing program in the area of severe-profound disabilities approved by the State Board of Education. The micro-credentialing program shall include competencies described in Section 6-187 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes; or

2. The subject area competency examination required by Section 6-187 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2020.

SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 10th day of March, 2020.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of May, 2020.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____